SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The term 'mini steel plant' generally refers to units of relatively smaller capacities manufacturing steel through the Electric Arc Furnace route.

As per available information, 3 Electric Arc Furnace Units with individual capacities of less than 5 lakhs tonnes per annum have been established in the country during the last three years and 5 Electric Arc Furnace units are expected to be established during the year 1996-97.

(c) The iron and steel industry has been exempted from the purview of compulsory licensing, subject to certain locational restrictions. As entrepreneur wishing to set up an iron or steel unit does not require an industrial licence unless the plant is proposed to be located within 25 kms. of a city having a population of more than 10 lakhs as per 1991 census. No industrial licence is required if the unit is proposed to be set up within an area designated as industrial area by any State Govt. before July 25, 1991. As such entrepreneurs are free to make investment decisions on the basis of their own commercial judgement.

News Report on Madhya Pradesh Government's Decision to vend IMFL

528. SHRI SARADA MOHANTY: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government is drawn to a news-item in the 'Pioneer' dated the 18th January, 1996 regarding the decision of Madhya Pradesh Government to vend IMFL in Tribal areas;

(b) if so, whether the same will be adopted by Government of India for application in all other States and Union Territories; and

(c) the number of such IMFL vending units/distilleries/retail shops, privately and Government-owned, functioning in the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli, separately in industrial and tribal areas?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has requested the State Governments and the Union Territory Admns. to step commercial vending of alcoholic beverages in the tribal areas and also to encourage official and non-official voluntary organisations to wean the tribals away from the habit of drinking alcoholic beverages. In areas, where the custom of browing local beverages is not prevalent among the tribals, due to mixing of their population and general advancement and also in industrial complexes and towns in the tribal areas, the sale of liquor could be through Government shops only.

(c) Dadra & Nagar Haveli Admn. has reported that there are total 36 private IMFL wholesale-cum-retail licences out of which 17 are in tribal areas. No licencee is situated in industrial area or being run by the Administration. There is no IMFL distillery in this Union Territory.

Watershed Development Programmes in Rural areas

529. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposals to finance watershed development in rural areas;

(b) if so, details of such proposals; and

(c) whether any funds have been released to Andhra Pradesh for this purpose during 1995-96?